

HULMEVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes
May 6, 2013

The regular monthly meeting of the Hulmeville Borough Council was held on the above date at the Borough Hall, 321 Main Street.

Councilmember's & Mayor Present

Thomas Wheeler, President
Raymond Johnson, Vice President
Judy Coleman
Nick Lodise
Debbie Mahon
Dan Mandolesi
Dale Walton Jr.
Mayor Harris.

Councilmember's Absent: None

Staff in Attendance

Solicitor Robert De Bias
Police Chief Tom Walton
Police Sergeant Robert Juno
Treasurer Diane McKairnes
W&S Clerk Pat Slater
Authority Manager Roberta Turner
Authority Chair Jim Clark
Arch. Review Brd. Chair Mary Johnson
Zoning Officer Frank Lewis
Secretary Patricia Boyle

Guests in Attendance: Ron Robins, Patricia Taggart and approximately 90 members of the community.

Call to Order: Mr. Wheeler called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm; all those present joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Boro Property: Mr. Wheeler thanked the volunteers who helped with the playground clean up. He noted that there were only a few volunteers present and that the committee could use some help from the community.

Minutes: A motion was duly made by Mrs. Mahon seconded by Mr. Mandolesi and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of April 1, 2013 and April 16, 2013 with the correction noted that Mrs. Mahon was in attendance at the April 16, 2013 meeting.

Police Report: Mr. Johnson reviewed the Police Report of April 2013: 9 Incidents, 20 Traffic, 9 Parking, 1 Accident, 3 Assists, 0 Summary, 0 Criminal, 7 District Court, 0 County Court and 2 EMS Call; 200 total hours worked; for a combined salary \$4,095.50.

- Chief Walton reminded residents to be more aware of their surrounding and to inform the police immediately if there is any suspicious activity.
- Dave Preston thanked the police for their presence and service to the community.

Authority: Mr. Clark provided members with a monthly report for the Water Authority dated May 5, 2013. Mr. Clark noted that the individual who was selected to fill the position of Certified Water Operator (CFO) has withdrawn his name for consideration. The 2nd qualified candidate to fill the position, Mr. Michael Franklin would require an additional 2 hours per day to perform the job, due to the travel time from his home in Bridgewater, NJ; this would almost double the budgeted salary allotment as set by the Authority. Mr. Clark noted that a possible alternative would be to limit the CFO chlorine testing to weekdays, excluding holidays and weekends. Mrs. Mahon reminded Council that they have exceeded the promised deadline of May 1st for her relief from performing the daily water testing. Mrs. Boyle reiterated that Mrs. Mahon has been performing this service free of charge to the Boro for some time now.

Bills: A copy of the bill list dated May 6, 2013 was provided to Council and offered for review by the public:

- **General Fund** beginning balance as of May 1, 2013: \$ 35,272.89
ending balance as of May 6, 2013: \$ 39,313.00
- **Sewer & Water** beginning balance as of May 1, 2013: \$ 182,391.55
ending balance as of May 10, 2013: \$ 165,501.54
- **Highway Aid** beginning balance as of May 6, 2013: \$ 23,231.76
ending balance as of May 6, 2013: \$ 23,231.76

A motion was duly made by Mr. Mandolesi seconded by Mr. Lodise and carried unanimously to approve the bill list dated May 6, 2013 with the following bills added: General Fund \$808.53/Bucks County Courier, \$120.00/ Sam Lodise (repair laptops), \$43.21/ Verizon Wireless, Sewer & Water Fund \$10.59/ Pat Slater (stamps).

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's Report of May 6, 2013 was made available for inspection:

- **General Fund Checking** Balance as of April 1, 2013: \$ 21,224.98
Expenses Totaled: -\$ 22,445.01
Income Totaled: \$ 37,690.46
General Fund Checking Balance as of April 30, 2013: **\$ 36,470.43**
- **Sewer Fund Checking** Balance as of April 1, 2013: \$ 159,393.99
Expenses Totaled: -\$ 14,651.81
Income Totaled: \$ 38,059.61
Sewer Fund Checking Balance as of April 30, 2013: **\$182,801.79**
- **Sewer Fund PLGIT** Balance as of March 1, 2013: \$360,595.38
Interest/ March \$ 8.07
Sewer Fund PLGIT Balance as of March 31, 2013: **\$360,603.45**
- **Highway Aid PLGIT** Balance as of March 1, 2013: \$ 29,325.81
Interest/March \$.59
Expenses Totaled -\$ 3,218.90
Highway Aid PLGIT Balance as of March 31, 2013: **\$ 26,107.50**
- **General Fund PLGIT** Balance as of March 1, 2013: **\$ 13,030.32**
Interest/March: \$.29
General Fund PLGIT Balance as of March 31, 2013: **\$ 13,030.61**

Electric Service Rates/Providers: Mr. Lodise presented Council with a rate comparison for several electric service providers. After some discussion, **a motion was made by Mr. Lodise seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried unanimously to switch to Pennsylvania Gas & Electric.**

Mr. Lodise offered copies of the 2013 Southeastern Pennsylvania Household Hazardous Waste and Old Electronics Collection Program which noted the dates and locations of the events.

Mr. Wheeler read from a prepared statement regarding the Resources for Human Development (RHD) counseling center currently located at 102 Reetz Avenue:

In his statement, Mr. Wheeler noted that he and Mrs. Coleman recently met with the director of the counseling center. Both he and Mrs. Coleman will attempt to answer any immediate concerns and promised follow through on any unresolved concerns. He also reminded the audience that Councilmembers are merely the “messenger’s not supporters”, and he requested that residents refrain from making unfounded accusations about individual Councilmembers, the Mayor, Zoning Officer or the Solicitor. Mr. Wheeler advised the audience that there is no zoning that prohibits this type of business from operating at its current location. He emphasized that “we have to follow the law regardless if we agree with it or not” and he thanked the residents for their patience and understanding.

Mrs. Coleman noted that the facility known as Resources for Human Development (RHD) has had Specialized Treatment Services (STS) sites in PA for 5 years. The facility at 102 Reetz Avenue opened in July 2012. The director of the facility, Mary Young indicated that the site is currently serving approximately 10-12 clients from Hulmeville and the surrounding area. The office is open Monday thru Thursday with primary hours Wednesday and Thursday (usually late morning through late evenings). There are currently 4 locations in PA with 3 of the 4 locations in residential areas. The services areas focus on behavioral health, intellectual disabilities and returning citizens. STS specializes in the treatment and intervention for problematic sexual behaviors and family abuse. According to the director, not all clients are being treated for sexual behavior problems and there are no clients considered sexually violent predators (SVP) being treated at the Hulmeville site currently. Of the 160 clients being counseled at the 4 locations, there are 7 or 8 SVP’s. The director has provided assurances that all clients are under constant supervision and that staff remains on site until all clients have left the premises.

Walter Hoffman (Reetz Ave.) asked of Mr. DeBias whether the landlord/owner of 102 Reetz Ave. would have a legal responsibility if there was any trouble from clients at STS. Mr. DeBias noted that the landlord most likely would not be held accountable.

Mr. Wheeler noted that State Representative Frank Farry has spoken with him and asked that he assure the residents that he is working on changing legislation which would require that counseling facilities providing treatment for sexual violent predators be required to provide notification to the municipalities and police department in which they are located.

Heather Fala (Washington Ave.) questioned whether RHD was issued a Use & Occupancy (U&O) permit. Mr. Wheeler noted that neither the landlord nor tenant applied for a U&O.

Nicole Donahue (Main Street) noted that she has attempted to get information from the director but has been told that HIPAA laws prohibit her from answering her concerns.

Jonann Sabatini (Harding Ave. Middletown Twp.) questioned how Council could not have known about the facility, asking if it was a “money deal”.

David Goodman asked for more police presence. Chief Walton noted that the police have increased their patrol in the area. He appealed to the residents that they not provoke the clients and asked that they stay within the confines of the law.

Mercy Ingraham (Water Street) asked that the community try to recognize that the individuals at the facility are there for treatment to better themselves. She asked that everyone not be so quick to judge, rather have some understanding and consideration for the need for this specialized treatment.

Additional speaker and concerns:

- Krystal Shaw (Main St.) – questioned whether the school district was notified.
- Ron Robins (Beaver St.)- questioned success rate of facility
- Michael Licota (Reetz Ave.)- questioned credibility of the director as they changed the wording of the web-site. Why does the facility have to be in a residential community?
- Stacy Bonner (Lincoln Ave.)- 2 incidents of cars parking in front of her house. Chief Walton reiterated that she call the police.
- Tom Stein (Washington)-questioned whether the clients have a right to park in the lot.
- Mary Johnson (Main St.)- stated that “this tiny hamlet of Hulmeville does not need this type of facility in our community.”
- Betty Shapcott- noted that she can understand mental health issues as they have affected her family. She recommended that the boro “keep a close eye” on Mr. Cimino as she believes that he “does not play by the rules.”
- Marcy Downey (Reetz Ave.)- started a petition to try to get Mr. Cimino to terminate the lease.
- Henry Schauder (Main St.)- Questioned whether the cars are allowed to park on Reetz Ave. It was noted that there is no parking on Reetz Ave.
- Bill Shelley (Main St.)- questioned what can be done about cars parking along Main Street. Chief Walton noted that if motorist seem suspicious than the police should be called. He reminded residents that they should not approach a vehicle or confront a suspicious person.
- Michele Harris (Trenton Ave.)- suggested walking the neighborhood when the facility is in operation.
- Tammy Schmid (Main St.)- stated that it was irresponsible of the facility directors to put the facility in a residential community.
- Ann Marie Davis (Reetz Ave.)- asked who she should call when there are cars parked in front of her house. Chief Walton reiterated that she should call the police.
- Mike Cannon (Ford Ave.)- suggested that the facility employ their own security
- Stephen McShane (Pennsy. Ave.)- suggested that Council encourage the landlord, Mr. Cimino to terminate the lease with the tenant.
- Patricia Elias (Main St.)- offered to have her house serve as a safe house
- Nicole Donahue (Main St.)- questioned why the board “isn’t making it difficult for the center”
- Jim Cook (Water St.)- questioned whether the occupant will be required to get a U&O
- Paul Davis (Harding Ave. Middletown)- asked that the police increase patrol during the times when the kids are getting on and off the buses.
- Denise Banks (McKinley Ave.)- questioned if State Representative Farry had any other recommendations other than the petition. Mr. DeBias reiterated Mr. Farry’s proposed changes to current legislation. Mrs. Banks also questioned whether the facility is required to have state inspections.
- Mike Schramm (Main St.)-asked council members whether they would be willing to sign the petition.
- Gerry Mladjen (Main St.)- questioned whether the facility was receiving state or federal funding. He expressed concern that there are not at present any notification requirements for the municipalities. Mr. Mladjen also asked whether the current zoning could be changed to prohibit these types of facilities. Mr. DeBias noted that the current zoning is industrial which is the most restrictive; he also reiterated that any changes to the Borough ordinances must be constitutional.
- David Goodman (Main St.)- asked that Council create an ordinance requiring notification.
- Chief Walton noted that the Town Watch program would be a great idea; Jonann Sabitini volunteered to get the program started up again.

Council Comments:

- Mr. Lodise reflected on the nice turnout at the meeting.
- Mrs. Mahon thanked everyone for coming and reminded residents that Council positions are completely volunteer.
- Mr. Wheeler also thanked everyone for their cooperation.
- Mr. Walton noted that the board will do its best to address all concerns.
- Mrs. Coleman emphasized that Council is here for the residents. She noted that she also has a 14 year old daughter and has the same concerns as many of those expressed.
- Mr. Mandolesi stated that Council will do everything in its power to resolve the matter.
- Mr. Johnson agreed with all of Council's comments but felt compelled to express his annoyance with the false and inflammatory accusations of impropriety made against Council.
- Mayor Harris also thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.
- Mr. DeBias noted that the board is dedicated to the community and very hard working.
- Council briefly discussed the possibility of issuing a cease and desist notice for the facility since there is not a U&O. Mr. Wheeler will contact BIU to help facilitate the process. In addition, he will follow up with Mr. Cimino about the U&O and the director of RHD.

At 9:50 a break was called for those wishing to leave the meeting to do so and for Council to continue on with regular business.

Boro Property: Mr. Robins noted that there is an iron grate missing from one of the window sills on the Borough Hall building. He indicated that he can get a new one made at a cost of \$100 and that the Police Department will donate the full cost to have it made and installed. Mr. Robins asked for permission to have the sign currently in front of the playground moved to the playground area; without opposition.

Solicitor Report: Mr. DeBias reminded members of the Rental Property Inspection Course being offered on May 14th.

Mr. Wheeler recommended Council give the Authority permission to proceed with hiring the Certified Water Operator; **motion made by Mr. Lodise seconded by Mr. Mandolesi authorizing the Authority to hire a Certified Water Operator for 2 hrs a day/7 days a week for 365 days a year.**

Old Business: Mr. Mandolesi questioned why the Neshaminy Shore Picnic Park (TMP#16-1-006) is not paying the amusement tax. Mrs. Mahon asked whether the amusement tax would apply to the bars. Mr. Wheeler noted that he called Berkheimer to request clarification. Berkheimer will send the necessary forms to the Neshaminy Shore Picnic Park for information as to their attendance numbers.

There being no further official business the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 pm; motion made by Mr. Walton seconded by Mr. Lodise

Respectfully Submitted

Tricia Boyle,
Hulmeville Borough Secretary